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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/428,134	10/26/1999	JASMIN AJANOVIC	042390.P6341	4288

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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

LEFKOWITZ, SUMATI

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2189	[REDACTED]

DATE MAILED: 04/02/2003

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/428,134	AJANOVIC ET AL.
Examiner	Art Unit	
Sumati Lefkowitz	2189	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 03 March 2003.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,2,4-20,22-35 and 37-66 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,2, 4-20, 22-35, and 37-66 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.

If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-35, and 37-66 are pending.
2. Claims 3, 21, and 36 were canceled in paper no. 8, preliminary amendment filed on 8/11/99, so the claims currently pending should include all claims from 1-66, taking into account the renumbering of claims 58-67 to correct the omission of claim 58, with the exception of claims 3, 21, and 36. Therefore, in order to keep a consistent record, the amendment of 3/3/03 has been entered in part, and claims 3, 21, and 36 have been cancelled by informal examiner's amendment, leaving claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-35, and 37-66 pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

4. Claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-35, and 37-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bell, 6,088,370.

As to claims 1, 2, 4-20, 22-35, and 37-66, Bell discloses the invention substantially as claimed, as Bell discloses an interface to transfer data directly between a memory control hub (MCH) and an input/output control hub (ICH) within a computer system, comprising a data

signal path to transmit data in packets via split transactions, and a set of command signals, wherein the interface provides a point-to-point connection between the MCH and the ICH, exclusive of an external bus connected directly to the interface, wherein information is transmitted in source synchronous clock mode via request and completion packets including transaction descriptors (note Figures 1 and 2A and column 2, line 15 – column 3, line 25, wherein Bell discloses in column 2, lines 20-25 that the controller 115 can function as a bridge between a memory bus to which one or more memory devices are connected. Examiner is taking the controller operating in this manner to be the memory control hub. Bell also discloses in column 2, lines 25-32 that the bus expander bridge 120 is coupled to two PCI buses 122 and 123, both of which have PCI devices coupled thereto. Examiner is taking the PCI devices coupled to the PCI buses to be I/O devices, and therefore the expander bridge 120 reads on the input/output control hub (ICH).)

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 3/3/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive for the following reason:

The bus expander bridges 117, 120, and 125 described in Bell do not disclose applicant's claimed input/output control hub (ICH). The expander bridges are unable to accept/interconnect multiple peripherals and external buses with another interface or bus.

In the claim rejection applied above, examiner did not read the input/output control hub (ICH) on all the bus expander bridges, but only on bus expander bridge 120 specifically, as that bus expander bridge is able to accept/interconnect multiple peripherals (i.e., peripherals on PCI

buses 122 and 123) and external buses (i.e., PCI buses 122 and 123) with another interface/bus (i.e., bus 100), which meets the definition of the ICH provided in applicant's detailed description. As for the arguments pertaining to the disadvantages of using multiple expander bridges, they are not applicable since examiner has taken only one bus expander bridge, bridge 120, to meet the limitation of the ICH.

Conclusion

6. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sumati Lefkowitz whose telephone number is 703-308-7790. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 6:00-2:30.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark Rinehart can be reached at 703-305-4815.

The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are:

703-746-7238 for After-Final communications

703-746-7239 for Official communications

703-746-7240 for Non-Official/Draft communications

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.



Sumati Lefkowitz
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2189

sl

April 1, 2003